

Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2004. Claims 1-41 were pending in the Application prior to the outstanding Office Action. In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-30 and 34-41, drawn to methods for treating a workpiece, classified in class 216, subclass 067.
- II. Claims 31-33, drawn to a plasma torch, classified in class 156, subclass 345,43.

Applicant herein elects to prosecute Group I - claims 1-30 and 34-41 without traverse. Applicant hereby withdraws claims 31-33 without prejudice being drawn to non-elected inventions and without disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in a future continuing, or divisional application.

The Examiner also issued a requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant herein elects the species of "A method for shaping an optic", and claims 34 and 2-29, which Applicant believes are readable theron the elected species.